

Iowa Fishing Report

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The Iowa Department of Natural Resources issues a weekly fishing report on Thursdays in an effort to provide the latest information heading into the weekend. The weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys, and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

SOUTHWEST

Lake Icaria

Water temps are back above 60. The lake level is normal and water clarity is good at mid-lake and near the dam.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A lot of catfish are biting on stink bait or blood baits.
Crappie	Excellent	The crappie have moved back in again. Some anglers are catching a fish almost every cast. Most fish range from 7.5 to 9.5 inches long.
Largemouth Bass	Excellent	Several largemouth are still being caught and the activity is picking up again. The shoreline structure is holding a lot of fish.
Walleye	Fair	The walleye bit is picking up a little after the last cold front.

Q Pond City Park

Water clarity is fair and the crappie are starting to bite.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Several real nice sized fish are being caught from the south shore near the road.

West Lake (Osceola)

Water clarity is good

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Excellent	A lot of nice sized largemouth bass are biting from the shoreline structure.

Little River Watershed Lake

Water clarity is about 2 feet.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few channel catfish are being caught from the shoreline accesses in stink bait and blood baits.
Crappie	Fair	A few fish ranging from 7.5 to 8 inches are being caught just off-shore.

Fogle Lake S.W.A.

Water clarity is good and temps are just below 60.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Excellent	Crappie are near shore in the evenings and out sometimes. Jetties and the face of the dam are very good spots.

Lake of Three Fires

Water clarity is pretty good and the fish are biting well.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Excellent	Bluegill are starting to move in the coves and quiet areas to spawn.
Crappie	Excellent	The crappie are moving near shore and biting well on small jigs.
Largemouth Bass	Excellent	A lot of mid-size bass are near shore around the fallen trees.

Green Valley Lake

The lake level has been lowered to allow for sediment removal from the upper end. The fish have been restocked and some catfish are being caught.

Summitt Lake

The lake has been lowered for shoreline stabilization.

Three Mile Lake

Water temps are near 60. Clarity is good.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Crappies are biting well near shore. Fish range from 8 to 11 inches
Largemouth Bass	Good	Largemouth are biting well from near-shore areas on spinners and crankbaits.
Walleye	Fair	A few walleye are still being caught off the steep rocky shoreline areas or slopes of the big points.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Temps are about 60. Water clarity is very good. All species are biting well

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	The bluegill are starting to bite well on crawlers from the coves and calm shoreline areas.
Bullhead	Excellent	A lot of big bullheads are being caught from shore using crawlers.
Channel Catfish	Fair	A lot of channel catfish are being caught from the shoreline access areas on crawlers, stink bait, or liver.
Crappie	Good	Several crappie are biting near shore from the gravel areas.
Largemouth Bass	Excellent	Bass are biting well from the shoreline structure and rocks.
Walleye	Fair	A few mid-sized walleye are being caught by jigging and trolling the steep shore near gravel areas.

Most species are starting to bite again. Water temps are rising. Water clarity is varies. Most lakes are still fairly clear.

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake has one concrete boat ramp and is trolling moter only.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are being caught on small jigs just out from shore.
Crappie	Fair	Males crappies are still guarding nests. Cast small jigs close to shore. Fish are averaging 9 inches.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass are being caught around cedar tree piles casting crankbaits and small spinners. Good percentage of bass in the 15 to 17 inch range.

Nodaway Lake

Nodaway has a good population of crappies in the 8-9 inch range.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are being caught on small jigs close to shore. Bluegills average 7 inches.
Channel Catfish	Good	Channel catfish in the 1-2 pound range are being caught on nightcrawlers.
Crappie	Slow	Male crappies are still close to shore and can be caught casting small jigs around rocky shoreline.

Orient Lake

Orient is full with one concrete boat ramp.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught on nightcrawlers. Fish are averaging 14 inches.

Littlefield Lake

Littlefield has a large watershed and water quality can suffer after rain events. The lake has one concrete boat ramp.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills in the 7-8 inch range are being caught close to shore.
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught in the upper end of the lake using night crawlers.
Crappie	Good	Anglers are catching crappies in the 8-10 inch range casting small jigs around rocky shorelines.

Lake Anita

Lake is full and has good water clarity.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are staging just out from shore ready to spawn. Fish up to nine inches are being caught with small jigs tipped with Berkly Gulp.
Crappie	Good	Male crappies are guarding nests and can be caught casting small jigs close to rocky shorelines and around underwater reefs. Fish average 9 inches.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass are being caught casting the shoreline with spinnerbaits.

Willow Lake

Willow lake has one concrete boat ramp with excellent water quality.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are ready to spawn and a few are being caught casting small jigs close to shore.

Lake Manawa

Water temperatures are in the mid 50's. Cooler water temperatures have slowed the crappie bite. Warmer weather over the weekend will help improve crappie fishing.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught on the south and west side with liver.
Crappie	Fair	Crappies fishing has slowed. Three inch rubber shad has been working well for larger fish.
Walleye	Slow	Anglers are still catching a few walleyes trolling shad raps on the west side of lake.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Many farm ponds hold good populations of bass, bluegill, crappie, and channel catfish. Remember to always ask permission before fishing private ponds.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are close to shore spawning in many ponds. Look for saucer shaped depressions and cast small jigs to catch spawning bluegills.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Largemouth bass are aggressive this time of year and are readily caught casting small spinner baits around structure.

Water temperatures are in the high 60's. Anglers are still catching spawning crappies. Bluegills are staging close to shore and ready to spawn. For more information contact Bryan Hayes or Mark Boucher at the Cold Springs District Office (712)769-2587.

Beaver Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Excellent	Good 8 to 9 inch bluegills are being caught shallow using nightcrawlers.

Rock Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	The crappies are spawning and good numbers are being caught shallow using minnows and crappie jigs fished near any wood or rock.

Big Creek Lake

There is currently a walleye harvest study taking place. Anglers who catch a walleye should look near the tail of the fish for a small yellow tag. The tags can be removed from harvested or released fish of LEGAL size and returned with a survey for a cash reward. The surveys can be picked up at the marina, park office, Polk City Bait and Tackle, or Johnston Bait and Tackle. There are also signs posted at the boat ramps with instructions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are in shallow starting to spawn. Eight to nine inch bluegills are being caught using nightcrawlers fished shallow in 5 feet or less near the curly leaf pondweed.
Crappie	Fair	Crappie are being caught in 5 to 10 foot of water in the coves on the edges of the curly leaf pondweed. A few are also being caught in less than 5 feet in the coves next to wood structure. Live minnows under a bobber are working best.
Walleye	Fair	Good numbers of walleyes, with a few keepers, are being caught trolling live bait and slip bobbering live bait near the jetties and dam.

Easter Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Good	Good sized walleye are being caught. Trolling live bait or live bait under a bobber in the evenings is working best. Along the face of the dam has been a good spot.

Hickory Grove Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Crappie have begun to spawn. They are being caught with live minnows near wood structure in the coves and along the road bed by the tube.

Lake Ahquabi

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Some good stringers of bluegills and redears have been coming off the lake. They are being caught using nightcrawlers fished along the edges and in the open pockets of the vegetation.
Crappie	Slow	Crappies have been hit and miss so far. With the warm weather through the weekend the bite may become more consistent. Fish near any of the shallower brushpiles and treefalls, as well as along the face of the dam.

Red Rock Reservoir

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Some crappie are being caught in Whitebreast fishing over the top of brush in 10 to 15 feet of water.
White Bass	Fair	White bass are being caught below the Roberts Creek spillway.

Saylorville Reservoir

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Spawning crappies are being caught in the flooded willows and vegetation in the coves.
White Bass	Good	Anglers are doing well catching white bass below the Big Creek spillway in the mornings and evenings just before sunset. White bass are also being caught in the marina bay when the pumping station is active.

Grays Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	The crappie are spawning. Good numbers are being caught fishing with live minnows near the treefalls and rootwads. Most fish are smaller than preferred, but there are some up to 15 inches.

Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are being caught in the shallower bays using nightcrawlers. Evenings have been the best time.
Crappie	Fair	Crappie are moving shallow again and are being caught along the shallower shorelines and bays. Live minnows are working best.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
White Bass	Good	Anglers are having success fishing for white bass below the Saylorville spillway. White bass have been off and on below the Red Rock spillway, but anglers are catching some every day.
Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)	Good	Good sized wipers are still being caught below the Red Rock dam in the swift water.

Central Iowa lakes have warmed back into the mid to upper 60's. Crappies and bluegills have moved shallow again to spawn. Warm temps continuing into the weekend should make for excellent fishing. Contact Ben Dodd or Andy Otting at (515) 432-2823 for information on the above area lakes and rivers.

SOUTHEAST

Lake Wapello

The lake has refilled after last year's fish population renovation. Red ear and channel catfish were stocked last fall along with some largemouth bass and bluegill.

Red Haw Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Use small jigs tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler fished around the shoreline.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Use spinnerbaits around structure or off the ends of the jetties. Use plastic worms in the same areas.
Redear Sunfish	Fair	Use small jigs tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler. Look for redears in areas around structure and along the shoreline.

Lake Keomah

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use small jigs along the shoreline.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Use rubber worms and spinnerbaits along shoreline structure and along the jetties.

Albia (lower)

The gate has been reopened and a new boat ramp has been constructed on the reservoir.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Use small jigs along the shoreline and around submerged structure. There are buoys marking areas where cedar trees have been placed for fish habitat.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Use spinnerbaits fished along the shoreline and around areas with submerged structures.

Lake Miami

The lake is now full from last year's drawdown. Try small jigs fished along the shoreline and along the dam.

Lake Sugema

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use small jigs tipped with a waxworm or a chunk of nightcrawler. Look for areas with submerged structure.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Use spinnerbaits or crankbaits around rocky shorelines or submerged structure. Use plastic worms around areas with trees and other woody vegetation.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 915.04 with normal pool being 904. The water temperature is ranging in the upper 50's.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Casting small jigs along the shorelines has been successful for crappie. The larger crappies are still around submerged structure in 8-10 feet of water.
Walleye	Fair	Try trolling or drifting nightcrawler rigs along underwater reefs and islands. Please be wary of tagged walleyes and if these fish are harvested please call the hatchery with the tag number. The phone number for the hatchery is 641-647-2406.

For additional fishing information in south central Iowa please call the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406.

Hannen Lake

We have received no information regarding fishing on this water body this week.

Iowa Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Try around brush or overhanging limbs with a worm or small jig.
Crappie	Slow	Fish around shallow rock and brush with small jigs or minnows. Most fish are 9-10".
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Try spinnerbaits or plastics around shallow wood or on the flats.

Kent Park Lake

In addition to the lake, the upper pond has produced some nice bass and the east ponds are producing bluegills.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use a small jig or worm along the dam or brush.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Fish shallow with plastics or live bait.

Lake Macbride

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Fish areas with warmer water with small jigs or minnows under a bobber. Most fish are coming off brush. The clearer the water, the deeper you should fish. Most fish are 10-13".
Walleye	Good	Trolling or casting crankbaits, as well as trolling or casting live bait rigs have been producing fish. 10-15 feet has been the average depth. Try a little shallower in dirtier water and a little deeper in clearer water.

Central Park Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Look in shallow pockets or flats for bluegills getting ready to spawn. Try small jigs or worms.
Crappie	Fair	9-11" have been picked up. Try small jigs or minnows. The north end of the lake has been good.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Sublegal bass are being caught on nightcrawlers and plastic lizards.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Remember, there is an 18" size limit on bass and 40" size limit on Musky here. The water here is very clear right now.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Crawlers and soft plastics along the dam and jetties are producing some bass.
Walleye	Fair	Leeches under slip bobbers are working. Fish areas with wind blowing in to them.
White Bass	Good	Fish are being caught on white jigs or jig/minnow. Look for fish chasing shad along the banks and dam.

Diamond Lake

Remember, no minnows are allowed here. There is an over abundance of smaller crappies here. Dont be afraid to take your 25 fish limit...every day!

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Shallower brush, overhanging trees, and jetty areas are holding fish. Use small jigs or waxies.
Channel Catfish	Good	Catfish have been hitting on cut-bait, shrimp, and crawlers, especially after rain events.
Crappie	Excellent	Most fish are smaller with an occasional larger one mixed in. Most jigs are working. The fish are tight to the rock bank.

Otter Creek Lake

There is an over abundance of yellow bass in this lake. The are scrappy fighters and excellent to eat. There is no limit and dont be afraid to keep every one you catch.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are shallow along rock or overhanging trees. Try a small jig or waxie.
Crappie	Slow	Some smaller crappies are being caught around shallow brush.
Yellow Bass	Excellent	Look in shallow flats and along rock banks for schools of yellows. Try small jigs, spinners, or live bait.

Union Grove Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Fish shallow areas with rock on the bank. Use a small jig and cover water.

Coralville Reservoir

As of 5/20 the lake level is 691' and rising. Right now it is projected to reach 694' by the end of the weekend.

For more information contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 9.13 feet and falling. Floodstage is 10 feet. Most fishing reports are coming from area lakes and ponds.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 17 is 12.45 feet and falling.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	
Walleye	Slow	
White Bass	Slow	

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 is 9.75 feet and falling. Fishing has been slow due to recent high and muddy water. Most fishing reports are coming from area lakes and ponds.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	
Channel Catfish	Fair	There are reports of some channel catfish being caught along the Muscatine riverfront fishing nightcrawlers on the bottom.
Crappie	Slow	
Walleye	Slow	
White Bass	Slow	

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 9.96 ft and falling.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Fishing for bluegills in backwaters has been slow. Most bluegill fishing reports are coming from inland waters.
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	Crappie fishing in the backwaters has been slow. Most crappie fishing reports are coming from inland waters.
Sauger	Slow	
Walleye	Slow	
White Bass	Good	White bass are being caught in Sunset Marina, the mouth of Sunset Marina, and up in Sylvan Slough. Fish are being caught casting shallow running crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps, and jig/twister combinations.

Mississippi River Pools 16-20: River levels are beginning to fall after the recent heavy rains. Main channel water temperature has risen to 61 degrees. Water clarity has been poor. Fishing has been slow throughout Pools 16-19. Most fishing reports are coming from area lakes and ponds. For more fishing information contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

Mississippi River Pool 14

River stage at Camanche is 11.75 feet and should rise to 11.9 before starting to drop.

Water clarity is poor and water temperatures are in the low 60's.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel cats are biting on leeches fished under bobbers along rocky shorelines in side channels and sloughs.
Walleye	Slow	With the rise in river level and increased turbidity, walleye fishing has slowed over the past week. Fish can still be found on the wing dams.

Mississippi River Pool 13

River stage at Bellevue is 9.02 feet and should rise to 9.2 before starting to drop. Water clarity is fair and water temperatures are in the low 60's.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are biting in South Sabula Lake on crawlers or jigs.
Channel Catfish	Fair	Catfish are biting on crawlers and cut bait in side channels and sloughs around snags.
Freshwater Drum	Good	Drum have been biting very well on crawlers on the bottom in the sloughs.
Walleye	Fair	Walleyes are biting on the wing dams on crankbaits and three way rigs tipped with leeches.
White Bass	Fair	A few white bass are being caught in Middle Sabula Lake on jigs or small spinners.

Mississippi River Pool 12

River stage at Dubuque is 10.2 feet and should rise to 10.3 before starting to drop. Water clarity is fair to poor and water temperatures are in the low 60's. Anglers should be on the look out for radio tagged white crappie in Pool 12. Tags are attached externally to the dorsal fin and we ask that these fish be released or the tags returned from harvested fish.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few catfish being caught in deeper water in side channels and sloughs on crawlers, cut bait, or stink bait.
Crappie	Slow	Few reports of any crappie being caught the past week. Look for them around snags in backwaters or sloughs. Jigs tipped with minnows are producing best.
Freshwater Drum	Good	Drum have been biting on crawlers fished on the bottom in areas of current in side channels, sloughs, and around wing dams.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Bass are biting on white colored cranks and spinnerbaits in the backwaters, marinas, and along rocky shorelines and around wood.
Walleye	Fair	Walleye fishing has slowed with the increased turbidity, but a few are coming off of wing dams on crankbaits and three way rigs tipped with leeches.

For fishing information in Pool 12-15 of the Mississippi River contact the Bellevue Fish Management and Research Station at 563-872-4976

Mississippi River Pool 11

Water levels are at 8.5 feet and expected to remain stable over the next week. Water clarity is improving but still a little stained downstream of the Turkey River mouth. Good shoreline bank fishing can be found at Guttenberg below the DNR fish hatchery and at Mud Lake Park, just north of Dubuque.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Excellent	The catfishing is really heating up in this pool as well. They have been caught in good numbers near the ferry landing as well as other areas. Nightcrawlers have been the preferred bait, but people are catching them with bass gear as well.
Freshwater Drum	Excellent	A lot of drum being caught along shoreline in the Guttenberg area fishing a worm on the bottom. Drum are excellent eating fish especially when prepared fresh.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Largemouth being caught along shorelines with woody debris. Bass are bunching up in the pocket and in the emergency spillway.
Northern Pike	Fair	Some pike are being caught in the Mud Lake and Sunfish Lake dredge cuts, using gaudy spinners.
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Some smallmouth being caught fishing near rock in good current.
Walleye	Good	A few walleyes being caught trolling on wing dams Some large fish were reported this week although not always a lot of numbers.
Yellow Perch	Fair	A few nice Yellow perch being caught on worms.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Water level at Lynxville is 17.0 and holding steady. Water clarity is improving.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Some nice bluegills being caught along main channel shorelines below the lock and dam.
Channel Catfish	Excellent	The catfishing is starting to heat up near out of the Noble's Landing area. Nightcrawlers fished off the bottom has been the preferred method, but people are catching them with imitations while fishing for other types of fish.
Crappie	Good	Some nice stringers of crappie have been coming out of the Norwegian and Johnson Slough area.
Freshwater Drum	Excellent	A lot of drum being caught right now fishing a worm on the bottom near main channel and side channel shorelines. Drum are excellent eating fish especially if prepared fresh.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Largemouth being caught along woody debris and emerging vegetation beds.
Smallmouth Bass	Excellent	Smallmouth hitting well along rocky areas with current. If you find these areas, try working behind the larger boulders and switch up colors until you start catching them.
Walleye	Slow	A few walleyes being caught trolling below the dam and they are also being caught in the major slough areas such as Harpers Slough
White Bass	Good	White bass are starting to run behind wingdams. Look for feeding schools and cast spinners or jigs into the fray.
Yellow Perch	Fair	A few nice sized perch are being caught in the tailwater areas.

Mississippi River Pool 9

Water level at Lansing is 8.9 feet. Water clarity is improving.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	A few people are catching their limits in the slacker water past the tailwaters
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few catfish beginning to bite on stink bait near woody debris and rocky areas.
Freshwater Drum	Excellent	A lot of drum being caught just fishing worm on the bottom along main channel and side channel shorelines. Drum are easy to clean and excellent eating fish especially if eaten fresh.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Largemouth can be found feeding on minnows near the shore in the slack water of a back-eddy with some sort of structure (boulders/wood). Some are being caught with crankbaits and topwater frogs are well.
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Try fishing areas with rock and good current, especially near a good back-eddy. Some nice fish being reported at the entrance of Big Slough and near Village Ck. Crawdad color or lime colored crankbaits have been working well.
Walleye	Fair	A few walleyes caught on wing dams and in Minnesota slough. Fair numbers of smaller walleyes are being caught with crankbaits near Village Ck.

Water temp at Guttenberg is 61 degrees and should continue to rise with upcoming warm weather. River levels are expected to remain stable at higher levels over the next week. River levels are: Lansing 8.9, Lynxville 17.0 and Guttenberg 8.3.

NORTHEAST

Silver Lake (Delaware)

Fishing has picked up again for largemouth and bluegill on Silver Lake with the recent onset of nice weather. Most all bass are of sublegal length, bass must be 15" in length for legal harvest.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try fishing a piece of worm under bobber along shoreline edges.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Try casting topwater, weedless spoons or spinnerbaits. Reminder there is a 15" minimum size limit on bass in this lake.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Casey lake has been spotty at best for crappie but the bluegill action has been starting to pick up. Bass have been getting active as well hitting on topwater lures.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Bluegill are being caught on red worms, waxworms and pieces of crawlers under bobbers.
Channel Catfish	Fair	Catfish should be getting active soon and a few are being caught. Try using crawlers or minnows fished on the bottom.
Crappie	Slow	Try using minnows or wax worms around brush piles or stake beds.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Topwater lures seem to be catching fish.

Big Woods Lake

Some small crappies are being caught but some sorting is nessassary.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Try using small jigs tipped with a wax worm or small minnow under a slip bobber.

Brinker Lake

Some crappie action is starting again but the fish have been off and on. Some days mornings have been good and other days its been better in the evening.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Try minnows or wax worms under a bobber or experiment with a variety of small tube jigs until you find the color the fish are hitting.
Walleye	Fair	Few smaller walleye being caught while fishing for crappie.

George Wyth Lake

Catches of bluegill and smaller crappie are being reported. Also the yellow bass have been picking up.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try fishing red worms or a chunk of night crawler under a bobber.
Crappie	Fair	Try using minnows or waxworms on small jigs.
Yellow Bass	Fair	Try using small spinners or spoons

South Prairie Lake

South Prairie has been slow but some bluegills are being caught.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	

Avenue of the Saints Pond

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	
Crappie	Fair	
Largemouth Bass	Fair	

Sweet Marsh Reservoir

Bluegill are starting to move to the shorelines to spawn. action should be picking up as the water continues to warm.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try using piece of worm under bobber or small jig tipped with a waxworm along shoreline.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Fishing has really started to pick up in the last week on the Cedar. Catfish action has been the most consistent followed by smallmouth bass and northern pike. Walleye action has been pretty spotty but they are being caught if you're willing to put in some time.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Excellent	Try using minnows or cut bait on the bottom.
Northern Pike	Good	Try bigger spinners or larger shallow running crankbaits.
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Shallow running crankbaits, in-line spinners and twister tails have all been catching fish.
Walleye	Fair	Try jigs and crawlers around logs or in deeper pools.

Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

As the water drops and begins to clear up the fishing for both walleye and smallmouth should start to pick up.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Smallmouth Bass	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	

Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

As the Wapsi continues to drop and clear up the fishing should start to improve. As of this report the Wapsi continues to be rather muddy which will likely persist through the weekend. Catches of some crappie and smallmouth are already being reported despite the muddy conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	
Northern Pike	No Report	
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	
Walleye	No Report	

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Water levels have receded and the river is in good shape once again. Anglers were catching walleye and smallmouth bass prior to last week's rain.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	
Walleye	Fair	

Interior river levels are dropping quickly and most should be in better shape by the weekend. Fishing has picked up considerably from last week as good catches of channel catfish and smallmouth bass are being reported. Bluegill and crappie fishing is really starting to pick up across the region and should only get better over the next week. Trout streams are fishable again and stocking is back on schedule. For more information contact the N.E. District Office at 563-927-3276

Volga Lake

Take notice of the new structure in the lake as fish will start to be found close by. With the warmer weather upon us the fishing should pick up with crappies and bluegills moving back into the shallow.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	With the water begining to warm up with the nice weather bluegills should start moving back into the shallows to spawn.
Crappie	Fair	Crappie activity should pick up as temperatures are back on the up swing. Crappies are biting on 3/2oz jigs tipped with a waxworm or minnows. Most of the fishing activity is along the shoreline and relating to structure.
Largemouth Bass	Slow	Warmer water should have the bass on the move into the bays and shallower water.

Lake Hendricks

Angling has stayed steady this week.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Try using a small jig tipped with a waxworm.
Crappie	Fair	Crappie fishing should pick up with the water warming.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Bass fishing has leveled with a few fish being caught. Try plastics with a slow retrieve.

Lake Meyer

The action on Lake Meyer remains slow. But with warmer water on the way fishing should pick up.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Some bluegills are being caught using small dark colored jigs and 32 oz. heads.
Crappie	Fair	Anglers are still catching a few crappies in the 7-10.5" range with small crappie jigs that are minnow colored.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Anglers are having the best luck on bass working the shorlines with artificial lures.
Northern Pike	No Report	
Yellow Perch	No Report	

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water quality is better after large rain falls the previous week. Smallies walleyes are starting to bite again as well as a few trout with the improved water clarity.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Smallmouth Bass are being caught by anglers using in-line spinners and small crankbaits. Crawlers are being floated and catching smallies.
Sucker	Slow	Try using a worm on a hook but the key is to get it to sit on the stream bottom.
Walleye	Fair	Some nice walleyes are still being caught in the deeper pools using jigs tipped with ringworms.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

River conditions are good with recent weather. Walleyes, smallies and trout are being caught.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Smallmouth Bass are turning on using crankbaits and floating crawlers thru riffles and holes. Concentrate on water below Lower Dam.
Sucker	Slow	Try using a worm fished off the bottom for continued success.
Walleye	Fair	Walleyes have started biting again with stable water temps. Below Lower Dam to HWY 76 dam has been the most productive.

Turkey River (above Clermont)

Water temps have risen with stable weather the past week. Fishing should pick up.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Smallmouth Bass	Good	With water temps on the rise smallies should start becoming more active and aggressive. Try throwing crank baits along strucutre and seems in the current.
Walleye	Fair	Walleyes have are being caught related to bottom strucutre.

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Cedar River has better water quality this week and is getting back to more of a normal flow. Rock bass fishing is very good right now below the dam along the rip rap.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few catfish are being caught on dead minnows.
Northern Pike	Slow	Angerls are catching a few northerns as bi-catch while fishing for walleyes.
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Smallies are turning on. Try using crank baits or floating a crawler thru the riffles.
Walleye	Fair	A few walleyes are being caught below the dam.

Decorah District Streams

Trout streams are back to normal and have cleared up. Stockings are back on schedule and the forecast is looking good for streams for the next week.

May's stocking schedule is available online at

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/fish/news/stockrep/trout.html> as well as a phone number which will give you a recording of our stocking schedule at (563)-927-5736. Stocking of our unannounced streams is taking place. The unannounced streams will be listed o

River and lake temperatures have fallen with recent rains and cold fronts coming through. Area streams are in fair condition. Streams like South Bear with excellent watersheds are still fishable and clean up sooner. For more information about a specific stream, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

NORTHWEST

Lake Pahoja

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use a small jig below a bobber at brush piles and rock jetties.
Crappie	Fair	Use a small jig or minnow below a bobber at brush piles and rock jetties.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Use soft plastics or spinner baits along shorelines.

Mill Creek (Lake)

Mill Creek Lake would be a great place to take children fish.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Fish around docks and other shoreline cover with a small bobber and live bait.
Bullhead	Slow	A few are being caught using worms near the beach.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Use soft plastics or spinner baits along shoreline cover.

Big Spirit Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use a small ice jig tipped with a wax worm below a bobber in Anglers Bay.
Bullhead	Good	Use night-crawlers at the Grade under the road at the fish Barrier.
Crappie	Fair	Use a small jig or minnow and bobber along the bullrush beds in Angler's Bay.
Northern Pike	Fair	Troll crank baits over the top of growing weed beds in Angler's Bay.
Walleye	Good	Troll crankbaits or drift with worms, minnows or leeches. Fish from shore after sunset with a jig or slip bobber with live bait.

East Okoboji Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Use large minnows or cutbait fish on the bottom.
Walleye	Fair	Troll crank baits along rock bars or fish at sunset with a jig and minnow or lighted slip bobber with a minnow or leech.
Yellow Bass	Good	Use small white jigs near the bridges in the evenings.
Yellow Perch	Good	Use a small leadhead tipped with a minnow on the north shore at the spillway.

Minnewashta Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use small jigs tipped with live bait along boat docks.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Use a jig and minnow or troll crank baits at sunset.
White Bass	Fair	Fish at sunset with a jig and minnow.

West Okoboji Lake

If you are looking for a place to take kids fishing go to Triboji (Lazy Lagoon) on the northwest end of North Bay. Plenty of parking is available with good shoreline for casting along the boat docks. There are many different sizes of bluegills with plenty of action.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Use a small ice jig tipped with a wax worm along boat docks in the canals.
Walleye	Fair	Use a lighted slip bobber with live bait or a jig and minnow over rock bars at night.

Ingham Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Fish below the dam with worms.

Five Island Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Use stink bait or cutbait at the bridge.
Crappie	Good	Fish around boat docks or other shoreline structure with a bobber and minnow.
Walleye	Good	Troll crank baits or drift with live bait. Fish from shore at sunset with a jig and minnow.

Lost Island Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Fair	Use worms fished on the bottom in the little lake bay.
Walleye	Fair	Troll crank baits or fish from shore at sunset with a jig and minnow.

Willow Creek

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Fish from shore using a small jig or minnow below a slip bobber.

Trumbull Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Use worms fished on the bottom.
Crappie	Good	Use a small jig or minnow below a bobber around shoreline vegetation.

Swan Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Use worms at the outlet.
Channel Catfish	Fair	Use worms at the outlet.

Upper Gar Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Use small jigs tipped with live bait along boat docks.

High Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Fish with worms on the bottom.

West Swan Lake S.W.M.A.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Use worms fished on the bottom. Some fish are also being caught below the spillway.

Silver Lake (Palo Alto)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Use worms fished on the bottom.
Walleye	Fair	Troll with crank baits or drift using live bait. Fish are also being caught from shore at sunset with a jig and minnow.

Ocheyedan Pit #1

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Use live bait below a bobber along the shoreline.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Use crank baits, soft plastics, live bait along the shoreline.

East Hottes

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Use a small ice jig tipped with a wax worm along shoreline structure.

Big Sioux River

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Good	Fish current edges in deep holes or above brush piles with worms, stink bait, or cutbait. Some channel cats are also being caught at the Klondike dam.
Walleye	Fair	use a jig head tipped with a worm or minnow below the Klondike dam in the mornings.

Rock River

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Good	Use cutbait or chubs around brush piles or at the dam in Rock Rapids.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Use jigs around eddies and boulders.

Little Sioux River (state line to Linn Grove)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Good	Use worm, cutbait, or stink bait in eddies or above brush piles.
Walleye	Good	Use a jig tipped with a worm or minnow along current edges and eddies.

West Fork Des Moines (state line to Emmetsburg)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Use cutbait or worms fished above brush piles or deep holes.
Walleye	Fair	Use twister tails or a jig tipped with live bait along current edges of holes.

For more fishing information in the Spirit Lake area call 1-(712)-336-1840.

Beeds Lake

Crappies are biting on a minnows fished under a bobber. A few Largemouth bass are being caught using plastic baits.

Lower Pine Lake

Crappies a biting on minnows fished around the trees.

Upper Pine Lake

Largemouth bass a biting on spinner baits.

Lake Catherine

Largemouth bass and Bluegill are being caught fishing near the trees.

Clear Lake

Yellow bass fishing has picked up, try fishing the north shore cattail beds and the reefs. Shore fisherman should try the docks. Walleyes are being caught on the reefs using minnows and jigs and a few are being caught trolling spinner baits. Crappies are still being caught using minnows in the rushes and the channels.

Little Wall Lake

Small crappies and Largemouth bass are biting fish near the brush with a minnow.

Rice Lake

Bullheads are biting on crawlers fished off the bottom.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Bullheads are biting on crawlers fished off the bottom.

Fin and Feather Lake

Crappies are bing caught using minnows and a bobber or a small jig.

For more information on fishing in the area lakes and rivers, call us at the Clear Lake Fisheries Office at (641) 357-3517.

Crawford Creek Impoundment

Anglers are still catching bluegill and crappie at Crawford Creek, but it has slowed down some since last week. Most of the fish are being caught on the face of the dam and in front of the campground area.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Anglers are catching good numbers of hand-sized fish. Try using small jigs with a wax worm.
Crappie	Fair	Some nice sized black crappie are being caught with small jigs. Also, try using crappie minnows.

Badger Lake

Panfish and largemouth bass are being caught at Badger Lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegill have moved in near shore and are being caught on small jigs.
Crappie	Fair	Crappie have moved in near shore and are averaging 9 to 10 inches.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Fishing for bass has been good using plastics.

Brushy Creek Lake

All boat docks have been put in place at Brushy Creek. The water is clear and is starting to warm up.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Bluegill have moved in around the trees. Try using very small black jigs and wax worms or a small piece of nightcrawler.
Crappie	Good	Crappie have moved in around the trees. Try using small minnows on a bare hook with a slip bobber.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Bass have moved into the shallows. Try casting plastics for bass.
Walleye	Fair	Some walleye are being caught on live bait during the late afternoon and evening hours.

Bacon Creek Lake

1600 rainbow trout were stocked on April 17th. Anglers need a trout stamp in addition to their regular fishing license to fish for or keep trout. Trout fishing may pick up in this cooler weather.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Rainbow Trout	Good	Use very small spinners or anything else that is small and flashy when casting for rainbow trout. When fishing from shore, avoid the east side of the lake near the playground where the water is very shallow near shore. Rather, try fishing from the face of the dam, the west side of the lake, and the area from the fishing dock below the parking lot to the dam. These are areas where it is fairly deep close to shore and the trout should be cruising these waters.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Fishing has picked up considerably since last week. Many anglers are catching their limit of 15 to 16 1/2 inch fish. Daily bag limit at Storm Lake is 3 walleye, all 17 to 22 inch walleye must be immediately released, only one walleye over 22 inches may be kept.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Excellent	Shore fishing for walleye has slowed down quite a bit. However, anglers fishing from boats are doing very well. Boat anglers are catching walleye trolling at a speed of about 1 mph. When trolling, try using a fire-tiger twister with a minnow and target points and rocky areas and dredge cuts. Anglers have also had good luck drifting in about 10 feet of water and jigging for walleye. Bottom bouncers also work well for drifting or a very slow troll. Use live bait, leeches or minnows.
White Bass	Fair	Some white bass are being caught on white twisters.

North Twin Lake

Yellow bass and walleye were being caught last weekend at a fairly steady pace.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Anglers report good walleye fishing at North Twin. Twisters, crankbaits, jigs, and chubs under bobbers are catching fish.
Yellow Bass	Fair	Yellow bass fishing is fast action right now, but the yellow bass are about 7 to 8 inches. Yellow bass can be found just about anywhere around the lake near shore.

Swan Lake

Crappie are biting at Swan Lake around shore and from the fishing jetties.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Excellent	Crappie between 7 and 8 inches are being caught as fast as you can reel them in. This is a great place to take kids fishing. Try fishing from shore between the fish house and the outlet. Use a small jig baited with a wax worm or a Berkely crappie niblet under a bobber set 1 to 2 feet down.

Black Hawk Lake

The walleye fishing is fast at Black Hawk, but most of the fish are sub-legal. Bring a lot of live bait and expect to catch about 20 short fish for every keeper. Walleye must be 15 inches or longer to keep and anglers are allowed 3 walleye per day.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Some people are catching their limit of channel catfish (8 per day). When the wind is blowing hard look for areas where there is a strong current near shore and cast your bait into the current and let it sit on the bottom. Gizzard shad guts work the best, but cut bait and stink bait work too.
Walleye	Good	A lot of shorts and a fair number of keepers are being caught. Fish ice house point with a leech under a slip bobber set just off the bottom. From a boat, fish just off of Lakewood Point, Crescent Park, and Shotgun Hill and use minnows under a slip bobber or drag a jig with a leech across the bottom.

Black Hawk District Farm Ponds

Panfish and bass are biting in farm ponds around the Black Hawk District. Remember to ask the landowners permission before fishing privately owned farm ponds.

Walleye fishing in the Black Hawk District ha picked back up. Anglers have been catching a lot of 15 to 16 1/2 inch fish at Storm Lake. Walleye have been biting fast at Black Hawk, but most are sublegal fish. For more information about the these lakes and rivers call Ben Wallace or Don Herrig (712-657-2638) at the Black Hawk District Office in Lake View.